

Docket No. 113669-5178A
US App. No. 10/720,143

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please insert the following sentence between the title of the invention and the first paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 10/040,679, filed November 8, 2001, abandoned.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page, 2, line 11 with the following:

Despite the benefits of such arms, they do suffer from one especially notable drawback; namely, they tend to be difficult to disassemble and, in particular to reassemble, e.g., to allow for sterilization thereof. This drawback affects many known surgical arms, such as the device depicted and described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,918,844 to Ognier ("the Ognier arm").

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page, 2, line 17 with the following:

As shown in FIG. 1 (reproduced herein as FIG. 1) of U.S. Pat. No. 5,918,844, the Ognier arm includes several interconnected parts/segments that, when assembled, form a rather long arm with many curves and junctions that render the arm difficult/cumbersome to sterilize. Moreover, many of the components of the arm are hollow (i.e., have a lumen defined therein) and, therefore, require periodic cleaning.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page, 10, line 8 with the following:

To supply gas into and through the housing 222, a distal end 226 of the conduit 224 is placed into communication with a fitting 228 that extends into the housing. In conventional surgical arms, e.g., that which is depicted and described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,918,844 to Ognier (the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety

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herein), the distal end of a gas conduit connects to, but also is integral with a housing (see FIGS. 2 and 3, which are reproduced herein, respectively, as FIGS. 3 and 4), thus rendering detachment of the conduit from the housing unduly difficult and time-consuming.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page, 11, line 28 with the following:

If, as is shown in U.S. Pat. No. 5,918,844 to Ognier, the distal end of the conduit was integral with the housing into which it is inserted, the conduit could not be as readily isolated for sterilization. Instead, one would likely be forced to sterilize the conduit while it remained integral with the housing. This would likely necessitate bending and maneuvering of the conduit, which, over time (i.e., following repeated sterilizations of the conduit) will cause kinking of the conduit. Such kinking could, in turn, cause failure of the conduit, thus preventing (or at least significantly compromising) the ability of the conduit to deliver gas to the arm and, in turn, the ability of the arm to reliably hold an instrument in place during a surgical procedure.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page, 12, line 33 with the following:

The gas travels through the tube segment 238, and is introduced into a proximal end 242 of the second, distal housing 244 through a distal end 241 of the segment. The internal contents of the housing 244, as well as the role the housing plays with respect to the functioning of the arm 202 are generally similar to those of element 109 of the Ognier arm, which is depicted in FIG. 5 (reproduced herein as FIG. 2) of U.S. Pat. No. 5,918,844 to Ognier.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page, 13, line 6 with the following:

A distal end 246 of the second, distal housing 244 is in communication with a proximal end 248 of a rod portion 250 of the arm 202. In conventional arms, such

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communication is generally established by threading one or more elements onto one or more complementarily threaded elements. For example, reference to FIG. 5 (reproduced herein as FIG. 2) of U.S. Pat. No. 5,918,844 to Ognier indicates that such a connection may be established by threading a nut ring 46 onto a complementarily threaded portion an element 109.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page, 13, line 15 with the following:

This threading process is difficult, time consuming, and replete with inexactness. In the case of the arm disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,918,844 to Ognier, the nut ring 46 has a very fine, double pitch thread that renders the threading process extremely difficult.

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